

Point Three



The Toc H magazine
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TALBOT HOUSE, POPERINGE

(pages 12-13)

Point Three

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Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911). Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House – the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

Members accept a four fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.
4. To work for the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points – to think fairly.

Personal View

OFFICIAL (AND OTHER!) SECRETS

Last week, a 23 year old Foreign Office clerk pleaded guilty to a breach of Section Two of the Official Secrets Act. The judge sentenced her to six months imprisonment, making it plain that this was a deterrent sentence. While I have some sympathy for Miss Sarah Tisdall, I have little for most of her public apologists, who are in full cry as I write. I find most of what they are saying either irrelevant or marred by humbug, emotion or special pleading.

We need spend little time on the politicians and quasi-politicians who are using this case as a stick with which to beat the government: we expect that from politicians out of office. Nor need we dwell on the outcry against the 'savage' sentence. In the light of my limited knowledge, I believe that a lighter sentence, coupled with a severe warning to others, would probably have served the Court's case as well. But I didn't see the trial judge alone; he took it in the light of all the circumstances as he saw them; and whether he was right or wrong has no bearing on the real issue.

And *The Guardian*? My prejudices tempt me to ask – as one *Times* correspondent did – why this newspaper did not play the honest citizen and return to their owners the stolen goods dropped through their letter box. But that, too, would miss the point. In a democratic state, newspapers are in a special position. (Coincidentally, the Appeal Court has just allowed another newspaper to print leaked confidential documents – though they were not state documents – on the grounds that public good can sometimes override the law of confidence and that this sort of judgment was an essential function of a responsible, free press.) I would not for one moment question the responsibility of *The Guardian's* editor. Indeed, I note that he chose to publish one of the two documents stolen by Miss Tisdall and to destroy the other – presumably on a reasoned assessment of their relative security implications. But to talk after the trial of repression and to imply government malevolence in the decision to prosecute is rather going over the top. He should stick to his real case – and it is a very strong one – that a newspaper in a free country has a right and a duty to publish as much as it can after making an informed and dispassionate judgment of the public good.

Others are homing in on poor Miss Tisdall, arguing that Section Two of the Act should be repealed since it fails to define the offences involved in its breach. Again, I personally agree but I fail to see that it has any relevance to this case. As *The Times* pointed out, the type of defence document taken by Miss Tisdall would be covered by whatever clearer definition were to replace the notorious Section Two.

Nor is this a party political matter. All governments would react alike to this kind of breach of confidence: the last Labour PM spoke of it in his day just as strongly as does the present PM in hers. Normal government discussion and briefing become almost impossible if Ministers believe that, whenever any civil servant disagrees with the contents of a classified document, he can feel free to smuggle it from a private office and pass it to any newspaper he believes will publish it.

But, say Miss Tisdall's apologists, she faced a choice between conscience and loyalty: some even have the nerve to drag in the Nuremburg Trials! Of course, when men live under a tyrannical dictatorship, they may face such stark choices; conscience may demand that they disobey the State and its agencies; and they know that they must accept the penalties such disobedience entails. But it is rubbish to suggest that we live within miles of that kind of State. No-one compelled this young lady to join the Civil Service or to work in the FO's private office; if, once there, she grew disillusioned, no-one prevented her from seeking a transfer; if she found herself disapproving of all her government's policies, her conscience might well have driven her to leave its service. But she remained in the private office, having signed the Act; she broke confidence; she tried hard to avoid being caught, confessing only after her closest colleagues had been under suspicion with her for several weeks.

I fear that we are nowadays getting a blanket view that this kind of disloyalty – whether practised by junior clerks or Cabinet Ministers or the trusted members of any organisation – is no longer discreditable. And the disease is spreading: only yesterday I heard a *Guardian* reporter in a TV programme claiming with pride that each week his office was 'knee deep in these brown envelopes'. That is why I sympathise with this young girl. She is not the victim of an autocratic Government: she is the victim of this twisted view of loyalty. I do not accept, though, that she, or anyone else in a similar position, may honourably set themselves up as the competent authority arbitrarily to reclassify state documents in their care or to break their word by passing them on to others.



Revd Gordon Clark and his wife Joan have just celebrated their golden wedding, having first met at a missionary conference in Swanwick. For many years Gordon was Padre to the Tunbridge Wells Branches. They are now awaiting the birth of their first great-grandchild.



Welcome

The following Branches elected new members during February/March.

- 3 — Walton (Street) (M)
- 2 — Bakewell (J),
Broughton Astley (W),
Higham Terrers (W),
Jersey Seagulls (J) Group,
Nailsea (W), Penn (W),
Weymouth Beavers (J) Group
- 1 — Bedfordshire & North Herts
District, Bexhill-on-Sea (J),
Chard (M), Gloucester (J),
Honiton (M), Hunstanton (M),
Melton Mowbray (M), Melton
Mowbray (W), Owton Manor (W),
Redcar (J), Richmond (J),
St Austell (M), Stamford (J),
Thurrock (J), Twydall (J),
Woking (J), Wolds District.

A warm welcome to 34 new members

Criccieth (Gwynedd) Branch donated a trophy and shield to a local youngsters' billiards competition, planned to become an annual event. In the picture, competition winner Barry Owen (flanked by runner-up Iolo Pugh Jones), receives the trophy from Branch Chairman Dr Tudor Jones.

Charities and the Water Rate!

We have received a number of letters of concern from members about water services charges levied against Charities in general and in particular against Toc H Branch premises. Following up these letters, we contacted the National Council for Voluntary Organisations who replied that, though they had made representations to the Government on behalf of their members, they had not managed to obtain any change. We then wrote to our local Member of Parliament with, I regret, no success. So that members may know the situation we are printing below a copy of the letter received from William Waldegrave, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment:

'... Rebates on general rates are given to charities by virtue of section 40 of the General Rate Act 1967, which

empowers local authorities to give at least 50% rising to 100% at their discretion. The Rating (Disabled Persons) Act 1978 clarified the rating law on disabled persons' relief and for charitable bodies 100% rate relief was confirmed.

'Water rates, however, have never been eligible for relief and sewerage charges ceased to be eligible when, with the 1974 re-organisation of the water industry, they became part of the water authorities' water services charges instead of being collected through the general rates. Charities are now in the position, therefore, of enjoying relief on their general rate but paying full water service charges.

'I do not regard this as anomalous because general rates are a tax and may reasonably be subjected to rebate for particular categories of hardship, whereas water services

charges like gas and electricity charges, are related to services supplied.

'Given the requirement contained in section 30 of the Water Act 1973 that water authorities should levy charges which are cost related and non-discriminatory, charitable organisations are, for charging purposes, treated no more and no less favourably than other consumers.

'Charging for water on the basis of rateable values provides only a rough and ready link between charges and the actual use of the services received. However, it is both easy and cheap to administer and for most customers, especially those with low rateable values, it is less costly and therefore preferable to receiving a metered water supply.

'I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.'

EJG

Round and about

How's your programme?

John McGregor, Chandler's Ford (Hants) Jobmaster, sends a useful tip. British Rail has produced a staff film dealing with aids they can offer handicapped people travelling in Britain. The film gives a great deal of useful information and asks for suggestions to improve their service. BR representatives can be made available to show the film to handicapped people or to organisations concerned with the handicapped. John saw the film recently and was impressed. For further information, contact: Mr Peter Bell, Chief Passenger Manager's Office, Waterloo Station, London SE1 8SE. Telephone: 01 928 5151, ext 2458).

Thank you John.

From the 'Garden of England'!

Frank Dives (Hythe Joint Branch) brings us news from SE Kent. This year, they run their 13th consecutive annual District project.

In 1983, they raised £11,000 to replace the Hythe Toc H coach (christened 'Tubby Clayton II'). Helped by the Samuel Lewis Housing Trust, they now have a property due to open later this year as a Carr-Gomm House. Well done! Keep the wheels rolling!

LEPRA's 60 years

The links between Toc H and LEPRA, dating from the early 1930s, were further strengthened at LEPRA's Diamond Jubilee Thanksgiving Service held in the Church of All Hallows in February. Joan Bailey, herself a member of both LEPRA and Toc H in Newcastle, Staffs has written to tell us of the occasion. Her Majesty The Queen, patron of both movements attended and the address was given by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Chris Bonnington, LEPRA's new President also attended. Joan writes: *'The occasion was historic, colourful and joyful. The link forged by Tubby . . . remains strong - many Toc H badges and ties bearing silent witness to the fact. After 15 years, I met again leprosy workers, missionaries, hospital staff and administrators who are still giving their lives and talents to LEPRA. Wonderful people, ordinary yet extraordinary in their compassion and dedication . . . We gave thanks and were glad. We came away . . . inspired to continue working for this touching cause, which was so dear to Tubby's heart.'*

A rare member!

Our correspondent Sheila Holt (Leicester Women's Branch) tells us of an unusual recent meeting in Leicester. The evening's business included the initiation of two new members, a welcome home to a former blind member now returned to the city and the presentation of associate membership badges to five good friends of the Branch who have worked with us for many years. But the climax came with the award of an associate's badge to the blind member's guide dog in recognition of her long service in escorting her mistress to Branch meetings. Sheila kindly sent us some pictures of the event but they were not sharp enough for reproduction. So if any local member can send us a picture of the new associates - including, of course, the guide dog complete with badge - we'd love to use it: preferably sharp black and white prints, please!

Ashby de la Zouch by the sea!

We learn that Jack Gilbert, Treasurer of Ashby de la Zouch Branch, has just retired as Ashby's Postmaster: he has been based in the town for some 25 years. He hopes now to give more time to Toc H, to the Scout movement and to his fairly unusual hobby which dates from his time in the Royal Navy: he makes model ships and sets them in bottles.

We're not alone!

I am always specially interested to learn of Branches carrying on corporate jobs in association with other bodies. I've recently heard from Ann Elliott and Bert Smith (Cambridge Joint Branch) of just such a task. For a number of years now, the Branch has been working at building a relationship with Primrose Croft - one of the County's homes and day centres for the elderly. Branch members have helped in every way they can, and, in particular, have decorated the Home each Christmas.

Suddenly a more demanding challenge met them. The Council had arranged a staff training day away from the Home and saw great value in all staff attending. But if they did, who would take care of the residents? The staff turned to Toc H whom they had grown to know and trust and four Branch members went to spend the whole day at Primrose Croft, giving full day care to the 34 residents, preparing and serving two main meals (and washing up afterwards!)

and carrying out all the normal routine staff duties. It was a tiring but worthwhile experience and they handed over at the end of the day with no major mishaps to report and with a huge collective sigh of relief. I have since seen a letter from the City Divisional Director of the County's Social Services Department warmly thanking those Toc H members who, by maintaining cover for the day, 'enabled an important staff development event to take place'.

Twickenham, here we come!

In our July 1983 issue, we gave a full account of Port Penrhyn's Junior Rugby Club. We have just spotted some further news in the *Caernarvon & Denbigh Herald*. The club has two teams (under 17s and under 15s) made up of 35 players, mainly from the Bangor and Menai Bridge areas and their fixtures range far and wide. Now they have mounted a sponsored run - 35 laps of a rugby club pitch inside a maximum time limit. Thirty four runners of all ages took part and they expect to have raised some £400.

And finally . . .

Uckfield have a special way of collecting old newspapers for sale and re-cycling. From 9 am to 12 noon on the first Saturday of each month, members man a stall in the town's main car park. Their monthly haul is from one to two tonnes!

Alston (Cumbria) Ladies Branch held their annual sale of work in the Town Hall and made a net profit of £78 - divided between Family Purse and a local charity.

Elmstead (Essex) Joint Branch announce a Flower Festival to be held from 29 June to 1 July in St Anne and St Laurence's Church, Elmstead Market. Refreshments will be available. If you are in the area, why not drop in and meet some of the Branch members?

Cheltenham Branch

Frank Adey is working on a history of Cheltenham Branch. He wants to hear from any former Cheltenham members - especially from those pre-dating 1965: Branch records are reasonably complete from that date.

Can you help? Frank's address is:
5 Cotswold Lodge, Pittville Circus
Road, Cheltenham, Glos GL52 2QP.



A recent clay pigeon shoot was held in Crawley to raise funds for the Toc H Outreach Project. The £20 prize was won by Mrs Amanda Ritchie. It's my husband's sport', she said, 'so rather than just watch, I decided to have a go'.

THE COUNTRYMAN

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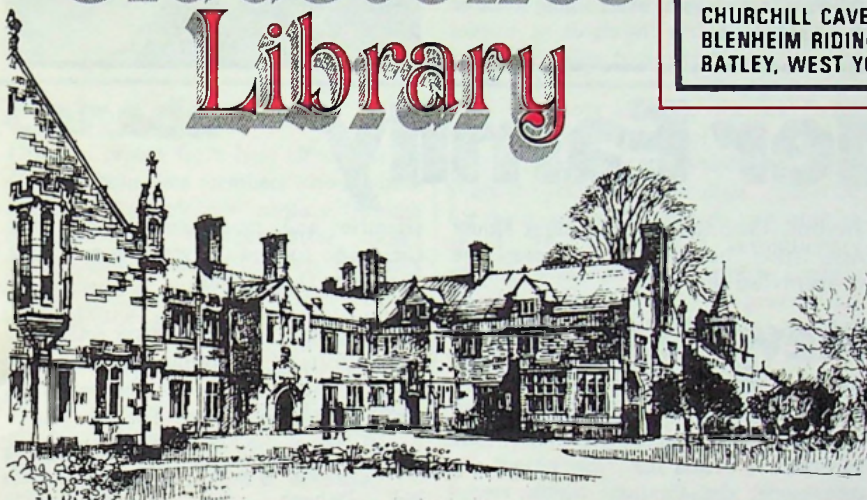
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St Deiniol's -Gladstone's Library



In 1896, the Rt Hon W E Gladstone set up a trust to equip and maintain a special library for students. This new and imaginative project was launched when he presented to the trust his own magnificent library of 30,000 volumes together with a vast collection of his pamphlets and papers. The site chosen was St Deiniol's, close to his family home (Hawarden Castle, some seven miles from Chester). By the time Gladstone died (1898), his concept had become a reality and it has grown over the years to become a very special library and conference centre. The attractive sandstone buildings (erected as a national memorial to the great Liberal statesman) are set in pleasant and peaceful grounds covering several acres.

In 1984, St Deiniol's is a unique, fully residential, academic library, providing all the essentials for scholarly research and

writing — a peaceful setting, freedom from distraction, all facilities housed under one roof. Thanks to endowments and generous private gifts, it carries well over 120,000 volumes, many thousands of pamphlets, some 300 runs of periodicals, a large holding of Gladstone and Glynne manuscripts. It also contains a number of printed collections, including a pre-1800 printed books collection running to some 10,000 volumes. The library is particularly significant as a home for 19th century studies but its whole range is far wider. It is open all the year round and welcomes students and researchers of all races and creeds. The library published a list of bibliographies, obtainable from the Chief Librarian (address below) if you send him a SAE.

Reading about this splendid library, I was fascinated to learn that it has recently installed a new mobile book

storage system — the first of its kind — to ensure the easy, unobstructed insertion and retrieval of all books and files. Fascinating, because Gladstone foresaw this 'new' development almost a century ago! He wrote in 1890: 'Let us suppose a room 28 feet by 10 feet and a little over 9 feet high. Divide this longitudinally for a passage 1 foot wide. Let the passage project 12 to 18 inches at each end beyond the line of the wall. Twenty-four pairs of trams run across the room. On them are placed 56 bookcases, divided by the passage, reaching to the ceiling, each 3 feet broad, 12 inches deep, and separated from its neighbours by an interval of 2 inches, and set on small wheels, pulleys, or rollers, to work along the trams. Strong handles on the inner side of each bookcase to draw it out into the passage'.

Accommodation at St Deiniol's is in single, twin or double study-bedrooms, each with hot and cold water and central heating. There are lecture and seminar rooms, a common room, a TV room and a private chapel. Prices seem to me to be very modest and include concessions for conferences, for longer stays and for particular student categories.

All queries, applications for bookings etc should be addressed to the Warden and Chief Librarian. He is: The Revd P J Jagger, St Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, Deeside, Clwyd CH5 3DF.

FGR



'LETTER FROM AMERICA' - 6



by Margaret McGettrick

Latchkey children

In a recent study done here, it is estimated that five million children are 'latchkey' children. Dr Thomas Long has recently published a 'Handbook for latchkey children and their parents'.

The phenomenon began to grow during WWII when women went to work as part of the war effort. Now they fight a different war, of economic necessity. Boredom, loneliness, fear and retarded social development result. Older children are given too much responsibility and made to grow up too fast. In inner city areas, where violence is prevalent, parents' fears for their children are conveyed to them - 'lock the door'; 'don't have friends in'; 'don't go out'.

Often TV becomes the child's best friend, masking the sounds of fear. The average latchkey child watches four and a half hours of TV a day. If a child watches violence on TV it has a lifelong effect. In particular, cartoons are very violent and a child's imagination cannot distinguish between fact and fantasy. The situation has an effect upon the parents. The 'Three o'clock syndrome' has become recognisable. Mothers become very agitated waiting to hear that their children have arrived home safely and production drops considerably. Dr Long suggests that the conscious planning of time, activities and chores; the use of flexi-time and flexi-places of work, and the clubbing together to form self help schemes, are ways of overcoming some of these problems.

I would assume that there is a growing number of latchkey children in England. Perhaps the initiation of 'latchkey' programmes is something our members could encourage. One form of help that was found to reduce fear in these children was the availability of an adult in the event of an emergency. Perhaps a gesture of good neighbourliness on the part of older members with time on their hands 'just to be there if needed' would make all the difference to their younger, more harassed neighbours and help at the same time to bridge a generation gap!

*Yours ever
margaret*

The Wider Family

Poperinge

The World Chain of Light 1984 will start from Talbot House, which saw the origins of our Movement almost 70 years ago. Those who wish to send messages should do so as soon as possible to Talbot House, Poperinge 8970, Belgium. I cannot give you details of the programme for this event but I do know that messages in good time will be appreciated.

A large number of Belgian members and friends are using Talbot House now, and the idea that the house is mainly British is fading. The fact that expertise about Belgian property and financial matters are a closed book to us here, means that more and more responsibility for the house should logically rest with the owners of the house, our Anglo-Belgian House Association. There is a keen interest of all members and two Belgian Toc H Groups, and meetings to discuss the future of the house have increased. British members of the Association will meet with Belgian members at Poperinge on Saturday 31 March.

We much regret to announce that Anna Fossaert, beloved wife of Valere Deroo (Chairman of Poperinge's Swan Group) died on 17 March at the age of 54. Anna had been an invalid for 25 years. Jack

Trefusis, Chairman of the Talbot House Association, has written to express the sympathy we all feel.

New Zealand

We are pleased to report the award for outstanding service to the Red Cross, to Honorary Commissioner Philip Liner. He received a medal cast in bronze to accompany the citation which reads: *'As a popular radio personality, Philip has done much to enhance the image of Red Cross by recording concerts and interviews about Red Cross activities. The New Zealand Red Cross Society counts itself fortunate to have such a keen advocate for its cause and acknowledges with appreciation the remarkable voluntary contribution of time and talent, made by Philip Liner.'*

To him we extend our congratulations on so fine an achievement.

Australia

A very successful workshop was held 29/31 January at International House, University of Melbourne. Members travelled long distances, encountering severe flooding en route. From Queensland were a group of seven young members from the St Paul's School Group and their contribution was very

effective and much appreciated. Ray Giese who formed the group is now Area Chairman, Queensland.

Bribie Island Branch are always active and their efforts at the Bribie Island Festival brought them success for the best kept stall on the grounds. Toc H was a beneficiary of the Festival this year.

Sid Dobson, Area Commissioner, Tasmania has begun a successful Lunch Club much of its success due to the efforts of Dorothy Sheaf, Secretary of Hobart Branch. The meetings are held quarterly in Scots Church Hall, Hobart.

World Chain of Light 1985 will start from the birthplace of our Founder - Maryborough, Queensland - giving an even greater significance to this important date in the year of Toc H. 1985 is the Centenary of Tubby's birth and so where better to celebrate so important a birthday than where he was born? This will give a busy year for Queensland and for Toc H Australia, and we await details of plans for celebration.

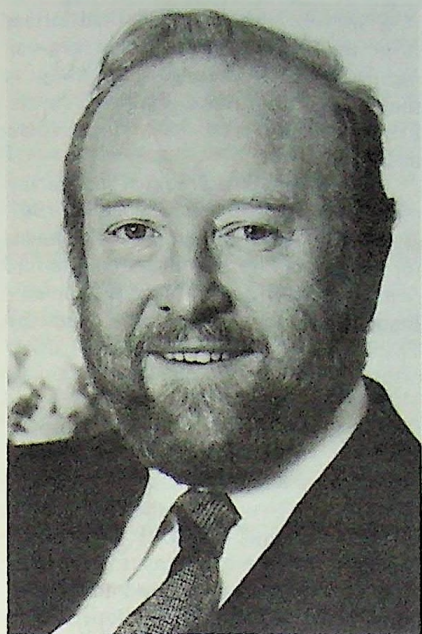
India

No news to report about Branches or progress but we are expecting to meet a member of the Cochin Branch when on a private visit to England later this year.

New Staff Appointments

I

At their meeting on 24 March the Central Executive Committee agreed the appointment of a National Chaplain.



(You will recall that the last incumbent, Revd John Hull, left us in December 1982.) The Chaplain is one of the Movement's four Principal Officers and, as with all appointments of Principal Officers, this one requires confirmation by the next Central Council.

The new Chaplain is Revd Frank Topping – widely known for his broadcasts and his writings. He takes up his post wef 1 April.

Frank Topping was born and educated in Birkenhead. He went on to prepare for a stage career by training at the NW School of Speech and Drama. He carried out his National Service in the RAF, based in Cyprus during the EOKA troubles and the Suez Crisis. After National Service, Frank worked in provincial and London theatres and with Granada TV before going to theological college to prepare for the Methodist ministry. He was then sent to the Dome Mission in Brighton, with the additional role of Chaplain to Sussex University.

Frank went on to work as a producer with BBC Radio Bristol and as Assistant Religious Programmes Organiser for the BBC's North Region. He then became an Editor of network services in London, including such programmes as *Thought for the Day*, *Sunday Half Hour*, *Pause for Thought* etc. He has written plays for Radio 3 and Radio 4 and (to date) seven books of devotional and pastoral theology. He has in recent years partnered Donald Swann, writing their songs and sketches from the standpoint of a committed Christian. He has written and presented five television series.

Frank is a Committee Member and ex-President of the Methodist School of Fellowship and conducts student retreats. He and his teacher wife June have three children.

We are delighted to have Frank Topping with us and we send a warm welcome to him and to June.

II

Canada

Little to report from here either but we do hear from lone members who say how much they enjoy our contact through correspondence or newsletter. Small groups still meet – Toronto Women's Group held a dinner party recently and enjoyed the company of each other. '... So we are still together, after a fashion' says Ivy Jackson of Weston, Ontario.

Fleur Farrington

South Africa

With the approval of the Central Executive, the prospect in 1985 of six volunteers from England working on a project in South Africa is good. Although we are still negotiating with South Africa regarding the scope of the work, it seems fairly certain already that volunteers will not be hard to find, and we are pleased with the financial support so far promised. This will be a pioneer venture which will help mutual understanding of our countries, and provide a basis for renewal of the Toc H Projects Programme in South Africa.

We are eagerly awaiting news from Johannesburg of their recent Executive meeting where, in addition to the 1985 Volunteers Programme, they discussed the setting up of a Toc H National Centre. A building near a Gold Mine some 50 miles west of Johannesburg was in prospect when we last heard – it sounds a most interesting site.

On 22 October last year, the first Dome building designed as part of the Toc H Blomvlei Caring Centre was opened. After years of planning difficulties, education for poor coloured children can now go ahead. The Dome is a revolutionary concept pioneered by a member, Graham Ramsey. The Movement's prayers are requested for the success of the scheme.

Zimbabwe

We have had no official correspondence since I returned from a hectic four day trip last October. But I have a wonderful letter writer called Thelma Bryan who keeps me informed about Harare and who pulls me up when I am pessimistic about the future of Toc H there.

Despite the transport difficulties, the representatives from the Areas still visit Headquarters at Bulawayo every quarter (for Mutare this means a four day trip) so the family of Toc H are more together than I thought.

Terrible times grip Matebeleland where the drought has not yet been eased by good rains. This is an area where there is still some violence and there is a curfew in force in many places.

Thelma tells me that members have now provided the boys of the deaf school at Harare with swimming costumes so that they can all get into the swimming pool together – a thoughtful gift bringing much happiness.

Keith Rea



Miss Shirley Augustus has been appointed the new Communications Secretary. She will be working with Frank Rice from 1 May and will take over from him after Central Council.

Shirley – a Roman Catholic – was at school in Birmingham and is an honours graduate of Keele University. After graduating, she taught in Birmingham and London schools for four years. Following further wide general experience – including research work in a kibbutz – she settled into the editing and public relations world and has now had some 13 years of experience of this work with several national charities. Her professional qualifications include Membership of the Institute of Public Relations and Membership of the British Association of Editors.

We expect that Shirley will take the earliest possible opportunity of moving around to meet as many of you as she can and to develop the feel of the Movement. Meanwhile, a very warm welcome!

Open Forum

(Owing to lack of space, some letters have been held over — Ed)

What is a 'member'?

At our last Branch meeting in Glenrothes a young woman arrived just to see what it was all about; let us call her Jane. Jane was in a wheelchair, severely spastic, and although we could understand her, it was at times difficult.

In the middle of our meeting we stood for the Ceremony of Light and afterwards I mentioned to Jane that as she would see by the literature that I had handed to her we were an organisation based upon the Christian religion. Her immediate response was *'I never discuss religion and we never discuss it at home'*. At the end of our meeting a member said the homegoing prayers and intimated that where we in Toc H start is the learning to love each other and go from that.

It is my hope that someone will respond and help me to decide what to do in such a case. Should I suggest to Jane that as obviously she was not a Christian we would not wish to see her again? Should I say that we would welcome her, knowing that she did not wish at any time to discuss religion which meant, of course, that the Toc H principles I mention were ignored? Or what should I do? Can anybody help?

Jim Lewis
Glenrothes, Fife

Do you not care?

I refer to Revd Malcolm Perkins' letter in March's 'Open Forum'.

Because of our Royal Charter, Toc H is *legally obliged* to care!

The last of the companies to be incorporated by Royal Charter was the Hudson Bay Company (one of its last remaining Governors was the father of a former Toc H Administrative Padre, the late Harold Hubbard who followed Pat Leonard as a Chaplain at Cheltenham College, and later became Bishop of Whitby). The Charter empowered the Hudson Bay Company to deal in 'pelts and furs'. Thereafter the Company must, on demand, provide pelts and furs — or it must lose its Charter. The first body to be incorporated by Royal Charter in order to deal in 'intangibles' was the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the purpose of 'supplying' law and order. Thereafter, any citizen of any unruly township was entitled to approach the RCMP and say *'you deal in law and order — we want some'*. The second body to ask thus to be incorporated by Royal Charter was — Toc H!

Summarised, our Charter requires Toc H to produce 'fellowship and service' when and where required. Despite

initiation ceremonies, any citizen can appear at a Branch meeting and say, in effect *'your Charter requires you to provide fellowship and service — I want some'*. Toc H is a corporate body which can sue at law or be sued. It can hold property etc but whatever its privileges its basic justification is the provision of fellowship and service. This function is not adequately interpreted by inviting a Builder, ex-member, or other citizen to a local tombola session. The foregoing was spelt out more than 50 years ago by the late Jim Burford, a visionary NE Area Secretary (an ex-Durham miner) who thus enlightened Northern Branches including my old Middlesbrough Branch...

Tom Baker
Windsor Castle

Charity begins at home!

I have just discovered that another organisation to which I belong has a regulation which states that no branch may be used as a channel for charitable appeals for other organisations — it is, like Toc H, a registered charity.

I am not suggesting that we should have a similar regulation in Toc H. But I am asking Branches which seem to be very good at raising money for other organisations to remember that Toc H is a charity, and in desperate need of money itself.

I am prompted to write this letter by the mention in your March issue of the Toc H Minstrels. It is stated that over the years they raised almost £14,000 for local hospitals. This is splendid. I wonder, however, how much they have given over the same period, in addition to the £200 mentioned, to the Family Purse.

Yvette J Frymann
Nottingham

Remember me?

I have been asked by the members of the Margate Men's Branch to reply to the letter from Fred P (Bill) Bailey in your February issue. This letter aroused great interest and comment in our Branch...

George Meade (the only one of the 11 Branch members who is pre-war — he joined in 1937) was unable to provide any memories of 'Bill', but other old members have, in the past, spoken of communal meals and sing songs in the earlier days of Toc H.

It was thought that David Wilson and George Hare (pre-war members who have now retired and moved away — David to Suffolk and George to

Canterbury — to be General Members with whom the Branch maintains links) might be able to remember meeting 'Bill' — it may be that you have had letters from them already. The other pre-war members are all dead or gone away — they include Howard Hall (1936 to February 1984) and Jack Amos (died in 1981).

Our present Headquarters, facing the Theatre Royal, was opened in 1963 after being converted from a condemned-for-habitation house by members' labours (with tradesmen's aid). Margate Women's Branch meets regularly there and the Thanet District meet occasionally; other organisations use the premises at times.

The main job of the Branch is visiting the Victoria House Hospital Younger Disabled Unit, Margate: members go weekly to take patients out in wheelchairs, to play games with them, to write letters etc. Our programme includes speakers on many matters and visits to other Branches and interesting places. Margate Women co-operate in jumble sales and with stalls at outside fund raising events as well as in many other ways. Regrettably, only three men are under 65 but all are active — even those over 80!

There was a photograph of members and guests in a 1982 issue of *Point Three* when celebrating 50 years of Toc H in Margate. Search of records showed that Margate members of Ramsgate Branch formed a 'Grove' in 1932 that became a Group in 1935 and a Branch in 1947 (but for wartime closure that would have been 1939). Minutes and some records seem complete from late 1934. Looking through them last week I found Bill's Westgate address then and his Margate place of work.

Christian Phillips
Secretary, Margate Branch

Big Brother?

I have read Keith Rea's *Personal View* in the February issue with great interest. I am not sure that I agree with some of his reasoning — for instance the prevention of deaths and serious accidents on our roads is, in my opinion, an objective to be applauded by whatever method this is obtained.

As we are all aware, recent events at Cheltenham pose a much greater threat to the erosion of our freedom than the examples quoted by Keith. I am at a complete loss to understand how a Government which, such a short time ago, was prepared to defend the freedom of some 1,800 people 8,000 miles from

these shores, can now deny a basic freedom to its own inhabitants. Surely this is going back to the 'reds under the bed' era in the United States when many fine people were vilified on the flimsiest of evidence. This nearly equates with the denunciations to the Gestapo in Nazi Germany. In the last war millions of Trade Unionists fought to preserve their freedom and very many of them died in this cause. To act now as the Government are doing is an insult to their memory. If GCHQ is such a vital part of our defences, what about the Ministry of Defence, the Cabinet Office, the Foreign Office? In all these places Civil Servants are involved with highly sensitive material which could be of value to an enemy, and therefore the selection of Cheltenham does not make any sense at all. Freedom cannot be maintained with the offer of 'Judas Money' and anyone who would sell their rights in return for a cash payment indicates that they could so easily be suborned by a potential enemy.

Keith quotes George Orwell, and although I think that he is rather an indifferent author, there does seem to be a drift towards the ideas propounded in '1984'. Democracy is a poor form of government, but all the others are infinitely worse. Let us therefore preserve it at all costs.

John Morgan
Ruislip

Granny Vera's walk .

First I would like to thank you for printing my letter of appeal in your October issue. The Toc H response that I received from all over the country was heart warming. So many members are helping me in my mammoth walk of 3,600 miles, which I begin on 31 March from Clacton Pier.

I do not know if any of your members have ever organised a project of this nature in past years — either as individuals or as a committee. If anyone has, I am sure they will verify the almost hundreds of difficulties that face one, which includes asking for friendly help — and not getting it! However, I would like your readers to know that the Toc H members who read my article have sincerely restored my faith in human nature. Every letter I have received has been friendly, warm and compassionate and above all so helpful. So through you, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in any way towards my Great Britain Walk.

On my return (8 November) I will write to you again with news of the Walk

and the total raised. I am sure that during my eight months absence I will think of an idea to help Toc H — returning your kindness. Thank you.

Should any members have missed my plea in October — and wish to help in any way — it is not too late to contact me at 37 Elm Grove, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex. I shall be in contact with my daughter Tina, every day throughout the Walk, for messages.

Vera Andrews
Clacton

Note: We all cheer you on your way, Vera, and look forward to hearing from you in November. — Editor

Can you help?

I would be grateful if I could ask for some help from Toc H members.

As many of your readers may be now be aware, 1984 is LEPRAs Diamond Jubilee year, which we marked with a Service of Thanksgiving at All-Hallows-by-the-Tower in February of this year.

We wish to feature 60 years of leprosy work in a forthcoming issue of LEPRAs News, and particularly, we are looking for photographs of leprosy work in the '30s, '40s and '50s.

If any Toc H members do have material which they feel is relevant, I would be most pleased to hear from them as soon as possible.

Fiona Baird
Press Officer, LEPRAs

Points for Point Three!

1. In February's *Point Three* you had a memorial notice for Giles Morton. Giles was proud of the fact that, as he put it, 'he was in Toc H before there was Toc H'. He was one of the fatigue party who had to prepare 'a house in town for a padre to open a canteen' in the words of their detail. Of course during the job he met 'Tubby' and he remained faithful to the Movement until his death.

2. In the same issue Doug Sobey claims that they have the brightest lamp in the UK. I say good luck to Gloucester if that is what they want but to many, including myself, this creates the danger of a 'golden calf'. Why do they think bronze was chosen as the metal to use? I once heard 'Tubby' describe the Lamp something like this: the oil going in is the energy of service. The service Toc H does is the spark that ignites it so that the Glory of God shines forth. That is why when we take Light we should hold our

heads up and keep our eyes open to look at the Light. The Ceremony should never be a hands together, eyes closed prayer.

3. In March's 'Open Forum' the poem to all smokers vividly reminded me of the marvellous day I had despite my chest problem when we came to Wendover and every smoker in the building stopped for the day. I don't think I need say more! . . .

Charlie Brown
Cardiff

The pure air act

Councillor Mason's terrible verse (March issue) can be followed by worse!

A brave unsmelly world
can be created, so ladies
no powder or rouge
lipstick mascara and
no dogs
no manure
no sweating and
of course, no smoking.

Eunuchs may suck peppermints
and the pure can inherit the diesel.

Keith Rea
Haddenham, Bucks

Happy ending?

Why is it that so many of our parish churches lack toilet facilities? I put this question to a friend, a qualified surveyor, who for his sins, had been appointed honorary adviser to his PCC on matters concerning the structure and repair of his church. Before he could reply I inflicted upon him the story about my beloved father-in-law, a devout churchman, who lived on the outskirts of a South Coast town. His church was about a mile away; he did not possess a car; there was not a convenient bus service; so despite his 70+ years, he walked to and from church each Sunday. One evening he sat, in great discomfort, through an exceptionally long sermon and, when the service ended, ran all the way home. He got there just in time, but the exertion and anxiety were too much for his poor old heart and he died a few days later.

I did not see my friend again for several weeks but when eventually we met up he greeted me with the news that he had re-told my story at a meeting of the PCC with the result that he had been commissioned to design and supervise the building of not one but two toilets at his church — one for each gender!

Harold Chainey
Chichester

For your diary

Cuddesdon Drama Weekend

15 - 17 June

Forget all your preconceived ideas about Drama and join us for a weekend of fun and new experiences. You'll surprise yourself with what you can do and you'll learn some excellent ways of making a group tick. We'll be doing all sorts of practical activities, trying out movement, dialogue and character exercises and joining in various group events. You don't need any talent or experience — just enthusiasm! Enquiries to Philip Douch, 17 The Folly, Newbury, Berkshire (Tel: 0635 31937).

NACCCAN

SECOND NATIONAL CONGRESS
'LIVING OUR VISION'

20 to 24 July 1984

at

Selly Oak College
Birmingham

The first of these Congresses was held four years ago and proved a significant gathering. This time, the Congress expects to draw representatives of some 200 Christian groups, communities, associations and religious orders from all parts of the UK. The purpose is to enable participants *'to share and clarify their vision of what church and society might be in the '80s and to explore the part that Christian groups... can play in helping to turn that vision into reality'*.

There will be two main speakers (Canon John Davies on 'The Prophetic Community' and Professor Nicholas Deakin on 'Today's World'). There will be 12 workshops. Throughout the period the campus will house a 'Women's Centre', an 'Under 25s Centre', a 'Justice and Peace Centre', an 'Inter-faith Centre' and an 'Arts Centre'.

The Congress is open to anyone interested. All enquiries and applications to: NACCCAN, Westhill College, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6LL (Tel: 021 472 8079).

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INSURANCE BROKERS TO TOC H

A Toc H Experience

by Megan John

A short while ago I was privileged to attend my first Toc H 'Day Conference'. Let me say straightaway that I was impressed but also given cause for deep thought.

I was standing on the sideline and trying to take an overall view. The members there were mixed, in every sense of the word — male, female; young, old; University, Comprehensive School — a microcosm of the Western World. The opening speakers told us we had to take a positive view of the matters in hand. Pessimists were directed to the way out. Gently they introduced the Christian aspect of Toc H. I listened intently for sitting near me was a group of younger members who at the first reference to Christian commitment seemed to try to disappear. It should not have surprised me as much as it did for I had met it many times before.

Later I was able to talk with these young people. They had strong personalities; they were frighteningly honest in word and I'm sure in deed; people from whom one would expect great things. Where, then, was the defect? They gave it themselves. 'Commitment', they said, 'is a taboo word...'

Our conversation led to further revelations which I may sum up as follows. There is:

1. An objection to being called Christian. We cannot be called so if we do not accept or believe.
2. A rejection of the idea that projects are an expression of the Christian ethic — as is their desire to help. They would carry out the projects for any organisation as long as there was no commitment, as long as they were left free.
3. Life is too uncertain for commitment in any way to anyone or anything.

As I listened, I smiled inwardly. It was an echo of myself at the same age. It might have been an attempt to shock on their part or said tongue in cheek. But their actions speak louder than their words and their words are in tune with their actions. So perhaps it was time for me to stand further back and survey my own values and actions. My generation was obviously under scrutiny and censure and it was time for us to be heard. It came as a surprise to these particular young people when I pointed out that, when we were their age, our world felt just as uncertain as theirs does to them. We lived under the threat of germ warfare, concentration camps and elimination of the unproductive. We then passed into considering the time even before the threat of the war and I recalled a speech I heard recently at an 18th birthday party, made by a godfather who had suffered in



Photo: Birmingham Post & Mail

An unusual Christmas present! Corby (Northants) Joint Branch presented a spin dryer to a local home for the elderly.



James Kendall picked up two bronze lamps for 15s (75p) in a Falmouth junk shop in 1945. At that time he was a member of the Old Harborne Branch and noted the similarity to the Toc H lamp. Later the two lamps were authenticated by the British Museum as ancient Christian relics from the catacombs in Rome, and they are literally priceless. One 'went missing' while on loan to a local church some 30 years ago. The second - currently in safe custody in the W Midlands - is now to be returned by Mr Kendall to the Keeper of the Catacombs.



the thirties. 'Things were just as bad then' he said 'but we won through and I've no doubt my godson will do the same in this time. It depends on people not politics. No age in history has proved completely hopeless.'

Many members of Toc H can witness to the truth of this and Toc H itself can give documentary evidence in its own history. Toc H had (and I believe still has) the one invaluable asset which some of our new members seem not to discern, ie the faith of its founder. To reject the Christian Faith is to reject 'Tubby'. Maybe I'm prejudiced because I hold in my mind two vivid pictures of him. I saw him for the first time with a group of sailor cadets at a Confirmation service. He and they were so full of life (even though he was aging then) and enthusiasm that it was infectious. It made an impact on me and made important a day which I had started in the lowest of spirits. My next picture comes from his biography which sets out the part played by the 'Upper Room' in all his work and what it meant to so many young men as they passed through not knowing if they would ever come that way again. It was something demonstrated rather than preached.

Some readers may justifiably chide me for not being fair to all that is being done today by Toc H. I justify myself by remembering that in these Day Conferences we are being asked to plan for the future. We are facing the problems of many organisations of our day, even the Church. We are having to ask ourselves if it is a time for change. If it is, then we must change but please not destroying

our foundation in the process. We are not a Church and can never replace the united Church composed of those who hold and accept the Christ as the Son of God and Saviour of the world He created.

We have to convince the next generation that this faith works in our own lives. Our present educational system teaches them the Humanities. They are inspired by reading about people like Mother Teresa. They enthuse over visits by someone like the Pope. But they see their faith as having little to do with every day living. They are not prepared to acknowledge that we have walked the road they are walking, that we too have been in the Slough of Despond, in the net of Giant Despair. Above all, we need to listen to young people and ask that they listen to us. We need to remember what they have not received. Few, for example, will have found the way of prayer in their own homes. Few will have learned self discipline. If they come from some of the older public schools they may have the elements of religion, but may well be in a state of rebellion against authority in general and the Church in particular. A modern day writer has put the position in the following words:

'The difference between Christians of the older and younger generations lies in two sets of seven words:

1. *Morality, duty, discipline, method, application, self control, seriousness.*
2. *Love, spontaneity, abandonment, freedom, experiment, self expression, gaiety.*

'If we are constrained by the first, we are

in danger of freezing ourselves and all who come in contact with us.

'If we try to live entirely by the second we shall drown. The way of life is a combination of the two. It is this balance we demonstrate to those who think the only answer lies in the second.'

The editor of a well known paper (Catholic Herald, 4 Feb 84) has written: *'Fear of discussing religion with the younger generation becomes immediately visible and, although they are prepared to talk, the lack of courageous conviction from their elders makes them lose all respect for their religious and maybe moral precepts.'* A correspondent in the Church Times (27 Jan 84) asks for help in his 'researches into the religious experiences of the 16-19 age group, which is being carried out in the UK and on the Continent. Further information of the work of this group may be had from the Research Director, Manchester College, Oxford OX1 3TD.

I apologise if I have underestimated or misunderstood anything that is already being done by Toc H. I am well aware that the Toc H lamp, that reminder of the lamps of the catacombs, shines as brightly as ever. I believe that we have in the forefront of our minds that old proverb 'It is better to light a candle in the darkness than rail at it'. I write only to submit a humble plea for a resurgence of the Spirit instilled by Tubby which to my mind is the most precious gift we have to offer to the world. It is the jewel in our crown which lights up the darkness around.

The Talbot House Association

by F C Campbell

Note:

This article was written on behalf of and at the request of the President of the Talbot House Association.

All who know and love the Old House must rejoice in the new life generated there in recent years. It is a far cry from the days when it was regarded as an English house in a Belgian town. Today it has become a community house used by our Belgian friends more than by visiting Toc H parties, although these still receive a wonderful welcome, as would many more if only a few more leaders were encouraged to organise them.

Other parties of all ages also visit Talbot House today, including serious students of its association with the Flanders battlefields, as do an increasing number of individuals and small family or other groups. Schools, colleges, cadets, even choirs, come to absorb and contribute to the unique atmosphere of the House and its extraordinary place in Poperinge life. Tourists come in ever greater numbers, taxing hospitality to its limits at times. Well informed guides from amongst local members of Toc H and the 'friends', or officially supplied on request by the Town Hall, help to give a far from superficial exposition. It is by no means unusual for more than 200 to pass through in the course of a day. For some, the experience may be 'just another place of interest'. For many, the impact is far deeper — deeper sometimes than may be realised.

But it is the fast growing role of the House as a focus for the people of Poperinge itself that would rejoice the heart of its first host. The Friends of Talbot House, founded first in England and later with a sister organisation in Belgium, together play a magnificent part in providing a knowledge and understanding of it, as well as a steady income and funds for day to day necessities, garden seats, table tennis equipment etc. The Management Committee does a splendid job which involved close contact and much time, increasingly shouldering full responsibility for the House. A thriving Branch and a lively, hard working Youth Group meet there regularly. One only has to spend an hour or two with Charles and Ivy Swan in their hospitable flat to realise how many and varied are the friends who constantly drop in — or climb up, to be more accurate! They have both done a wonderful job, winning the friendship and widespread esteem of the people of Poperinge. The Founder Padre would recognise and applaud the pattern and, without a shadow of doubt, delight in the deep understanding of so many of

our Belgian friends, not least the younger ones, of the spirit of the House and of Toc H. Talbot House today is their House and many of them are deeply concerned about its future. For it is at a most critical stage in its history.

It is perhaps not widely realised that it does not technically belong to Toc H. When Lord Wakefield of Hythe bought it, together with the mine crater that was to become 'The Pool of Peace', it was discovered that Belgian law did not allow it to pass into foreign ownership. The solution was the creation of 'The Talbot House Association', the Administrative Council of which must have a three-fifths majority Belgian membership to ensure ultimate control and ownership. While Toc H is nowhere mentioned in the original Statutes, or Charter, two key Toc H members were amongst the first appointees and Toc H has always been the major force and supplied at least one officer.

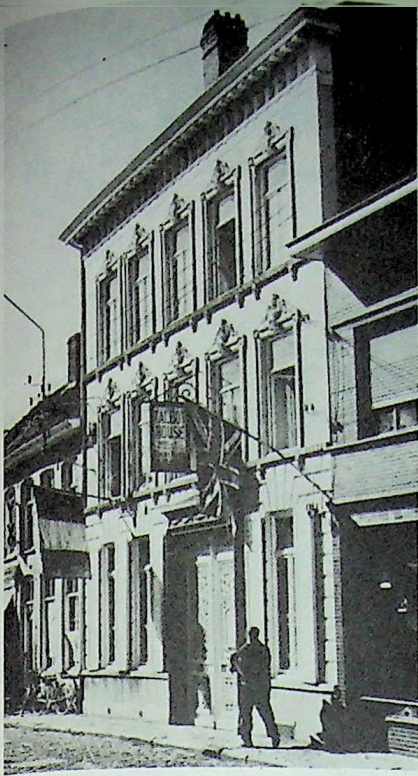
At the same time, Lord Wakefield provided a generous endowment, now sadly eroded by inflation, although there have been subsequent gifts to the fund which is held by Toc H on behalf of Talbot House. The only funds available to the Association itself, apart from a very generous grant from the Town and a much smaller one from the town of Ieper, have been the accommodation charges and 'donations' (not 'subscriptions', be it noted) from its own members, far more Belgian than British today. They largely cover such things as rates and taxes (from which the Old House benefits from registration as a charity and the fact that it is a Scheduled Building).

For over 60 years now, our Belgian colleagues have faithfully and honourably acted in the interests of the House and of Toc H, for which they have seen themselves as trustees. It is part of the incredible history of Toc H now that when the House was about to be commandeered in the last war, its whole contents were spirited away overnight, hidden and restored just as quickly on liberation. From time to time they have also persuaded the Town to make substantial special grants for major work or other needs. But the staffing and running of the House, normal maintenance and repairs, not to mention major modernisation costs, have been the responsibility of Toc H, only funded by very substantial grants from its own funds.

The Talbot House Association, at its Annual Meeting last September, was warned that, with the best will in the world, Toc H could not guarantee to meet ever increasing deficits indefinitely, let alone the costs of much needed repair or development work. There was general agreement that the Old House simply could not just be allowed to drift into the limbo of history and it seemed evident that the Association would have to accept much more direct responsibility for future policies, operation and funding, though it was hoped that Toc H would still be in full partnership and contributing to the best of its ability. As a first step, therefore, a special meeting was convened for the following November at which our Belgian friends, representing all the different bodies involved in the House, after a very full and frank discussion, agreed to consult in depth amongst themselves and report back to another special meeting in March 1984, perhaps with some positive recommendations for future policy.

Meanwhile the Hon Treasurer will consider whether the Objects of the Association, as laid down in the original Statutes, could be redrafted to meet modern conditions, less specifically geared to the Great War but in full tune with the spirit of its foundation. He also undertook to ascertain whether official help might be forthcoming for the employment of one or more young unemployed to assist Charles and Ivy. In his view, 100,000 francs would be the minimum budget for annual maintenance of the fabric alone. Local initiative has already raised some 215,000 francs towards the cost of the urgent work, long overdue, by means of an excellent series of concerts by local talent and other means — a fine tribute to the goodwill of Poperinge itself.

So where does Talbot House go from here? All agree that it is far more than an historic birthplace and tourist attraction, an inspiration not only to Toc H members all over the world but also to thousands of other visitors. It has played a full part in the remarkable development over the past 20 years of Poperinge's ties with other hop growing areas, at least one beyond the Iron Curtain. Indeed, it has almost come, with Toc H itself, to represent Britain in a unique European brotherhood and the Toc H symbol is displayed on the wall of the Council Chamber in one Bavarian town. Toc H Lamps, of course, are held by both



Poperinge and Ieper. Many close personal friendships have been forged in this way and many young people have exchanged visits.

Could the House play host, not only to parties and individuals on the present pattern but also to groups of young people for educational holiday visits — from all over Europe, the Commonwealth and elsewhere? Could this be happily combined with present tourist demands and a 'community house' for Poperinge itself? Present residential accommodation at the House is severely restricted, even for traditional parties from Britain, and we depend frequently on generous hospitality from Belgian friends. Could the Slessorium, now no longer required for its original purposes, be converted or extended to provide more accommodation? Could more be built on the site of the old glass house at the bottom of the garden? The answer must no doubt be 'Yes, at no small cost!'

There is a firm faith that the atmosphere and spirit of the Old House and its Upper Room will be preserved to exert their desperately needed influence on a world still in conflict in so many ways. Given the vision of its first 'Innkeeper', for whom finance was never a cause for caution but the product of faith, the now urgent requirement for funds will be met. Maybe some modern Lord Wakefield will appear. Maybe some Trust or Foundation will recognise the opportunity for an investment in inspiration. Maybe a multitude of mites from all over the world will be forthcoming. The conviction is already there. The Talbot House Association is determined not to be found wanting. What it does want is the prayer of Toc H everywhere.

CAPITAL RADIO 194

Venture Day-29 June 1984

BATTERSEA PARK, LONDON

It's happening again! and it's FREE! Excitement; a challenge; fun; laughter; learn something new — whatever you want, it's here!

Come and help us out on 24 June in the Toc H arena, where we will be providing challenging activities for all sorts of people as well as a chance to publicize Toc H to the ¾ million people who will be there!

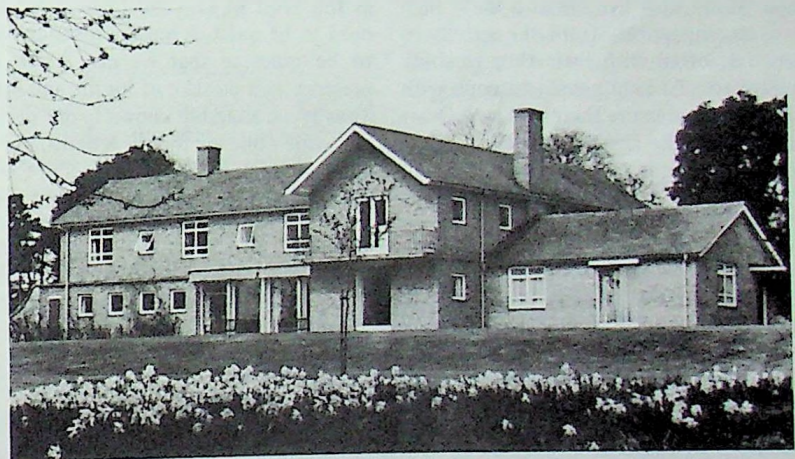
WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Enquiries to: Judi Edwards, Project Development Officer,
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.

midsummer cavalcade 1985

(or a toc h national festival)

21-23 JUNE 1985
cuddesdon house



1984 may have had George Orwell — but 1985 really has something to celebrate! For a start, there is the 100th anniversary of the birth of Tubby Clayton, the 70th anniversary of the founding of Toc H, together with the International Year of Youth! (IYY). Do you know how to celebrate all that? We do! In a weekend planned for your delectation and delight, we shall be including something for everyone — drama, art, craft, music, poetry, fun, entertainment, children's activities to name but a few.

Come and join in — or watch, as you please — but come anyway! So as soon as you get your 1985 diary, put this date in it — because we know how you'd hate to miss this event.

It's sure to be a cram-full cornucopia of kaleidoscopic, colourful, celebration — at Cuddesdon!

Watch this space for further details.

Christ the King at Cuddesdon

by Colin Rudd

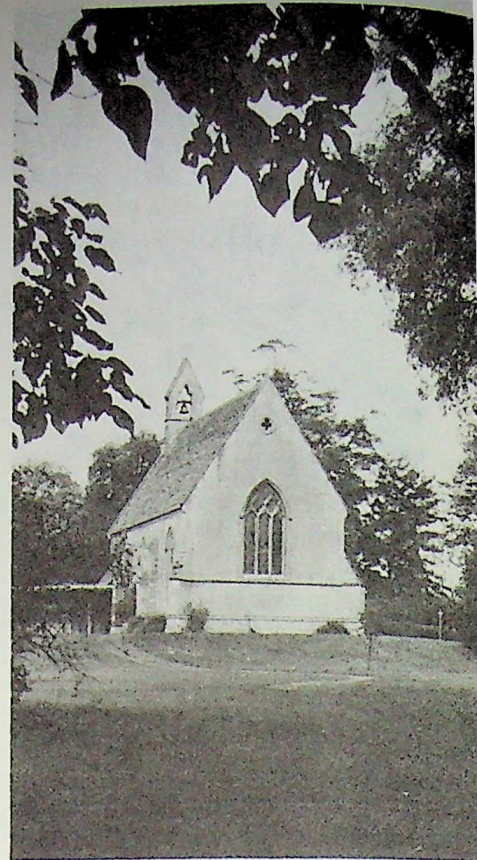
When the Archbishop of Canterbury comes to Cuddesdon on 8 May he will dedicate the chapel in the name of Christ the King. By then it will already have been in use for about three months in two main ways. First, our regular Wednesday morning communion services will happen there, and will no longer have to come out of a cardboard box in whatever room happens to be available! The Wednesday morning eucharist has always set out to be both a service for the house staff and whoever is staying, and the midweek service for the parish of Cuddesdon. In recent months we have been very glad to welcome a number of wives of students studying at Ripon College, Cuddesdon. Numbers have grown so that a small worshipping community is beginning to develop. Our communicants range in age from pre-school (Lara is a little American girl who was confirmed at the age of three) upwards. That is a particular delight for me.

The other important things which will have begun will be our monthly Quiet Days. Many now live life at a fairly high pace, moving quickly from one activity to the next, often with little time to think and reflect. To help people to cope with this kind of pressure there will be a Quiet Day held on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning in April. The days will begin with the eucharist at 10.15 am as

usual and end at 4 pm. We shall ask people to bring a packed lunch — hot drinks will be provided. No charge will be made, although any donations will be welcomed! Most of the Quiet Days will have a leader to draw us together at particular points during the day. These days are open to anyone to come to, and I hope that many will be able to come and be quiet and reflect for a while.

These are two of the definable activities which will have begun by the time the Archbishop comes. A less definable, but even more important one will also have begun. People will begin to use the chapel for their own private prayer and devotions. Untimetabled, unstructured, it will be this which in the end will give the chapel that atmosphere of prayer which is found in well used places of worship.

Perhaps you will begin to see why we have decided to dedicate our chapel to Christ the King. As shepherds and wise men came to the infant Christ quietly and without ostentation and worshipped him as the Lord of Life and Light so we too need to be quiet in our approach to him, to be quiet so that we may know his presence and partake of his life and light. Thus is his Kingship known in our lives — not with noise or frantic activity, but in quiet and stillness. So the chapel of Christ the King at Cuddesdon will remind us by



its dedication that he is still the Lord of Life and Light, and its quietness remind us how he is to be found.

May I ask two things of you? First, please remember us especially on 8 May when the chapel is dedicated, and second, when, in the monthly cycle of prayer, Cuddesdon's turn comes around will you remember those who worship and pray and come for times of quiet in our chapel of Christ the King. Of course, if you were able to join us at any time we would be especially glad.



Alec Hassell (Trowbridge, Wilts Men's Branch) and his wife Norah (a pre-war LWH member) were reminded of old times when moving house recently. Alex served in the RN in WWI and was recalled in 1939. In 1944 he was serving in the Orkneys and joined the HMS Dunluce Castle Group which had just been set up after Tubby's visit to the Fleet. Seasoned members like Alec (a member since 1928) got the ship's ERA to make up a rushlight from some scrap brass. The picture shows the Group members with a number of chaplains (Alec is at the back on the far right) in front of the building on Flotta which was converted to a memorial chapel to the crew of HMS Hood.



Photo: Huddersfield Examiner

At a recent coffee party and bring and buy sale, Paddock (Huddersfield) Women's Branch raised £123 for Colsterdale. In the picture, Brian Halmshaw (Colsterdale Committee Treasurer) and Joan Burrill (Paddock Chairman) serve coffee to some of their guests.

We will Remember...

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In January

Thomas R Dodd (Tyneside/Wearside District)

In February

Reginald C Barkway (Eastbourne)
 Leslie L Chubb (Chard)
 Revd George E P Cox (Beckley)
 Robert E Duff (Kendal)
 Arthur H Evans (Glamorgan District)
 Lilian L Gray (Loughton)
 Violet Howarth (Greenbank)
 Albert J Jones (Isle of Wight District)
 Edna M Maggs (Saltford)
 Hilda Matthews (Greenbank)
 Rosalind Norman (Plymstock)
 F Eric A Thompson (Criccieth)
 Ronald A Watts (Ramsgate & Newington)
 Nellie B Wright (Netherton)

In March

Leslie H Campling (North Bucks with Oxford District)
 Hilda Collings (Llandudno)
 Sidney G Fulker (Looe)
 Lilian T Hunt (Skegness)
 Joyce Lockwood (Huddersfield)

Members of Sevenoaks Men's Branch were saddened by the death, in December, of John Robson Keith, at the age of 74. A quietly spoken Ulsterman, John had a long standing association with the Movement, which began in 1947, following active service as a pharmacist in the RAMC, much of which he experienced in the Normandy landings and the campaign in Belgium, Holland and, finally, Germany. He was a member of the Glastonbury Branch from 1947 to 1971, until he took up residence in Liverpool and became a member of Aigburth Branch. On his retirement, in 1977, he moved to Sevenoaks, Kent, and joined the Branch there. He was active in Branch and District affairs and, despite failing health, had a courageous and cheerful outlook on life, which endeared him to all of us. We certainly will remember him – and with affection.

CSR

Len Talbot died in February. There were no family mourners at his funeral: he had never married and his only sister had died five years ago. The vicar, who described Len as a gentleman, was deeply moved to find his small Church at Longthorpe, Peterborough, almost filled with 80 friends, neighbours and old workmates, who had come to pay their last respects.

Len was a founder member of

Westwood Branch, Peterborough, having joined the Movement in February 1935. He had been a faithful Builder for the past six years. He was 81 when he died and because of ill health had not attended meetings for some time, but his Toc H friends kept in touch and he maintained his annual contribution to the Family Purse. He was very quiet, saying little at Branch meetings, but was always prepared to tackle any practical job and could be relied upon to do it thoroughly. Many things he did went unnoticed, for he was a true practical Christian whose Toc H commitment was expressed constantly in his everyday life.

'We give thanks for his life and the true friendship we all shared with him.'

JC

Loughton (Essex) Women's Branch write to tell us of the death in February of Lily Gray. Lily had been a faithful and enthusiastic Branch member for more than 20 years. During the last few years she had been living in a Home for the Disabled and suffered from arthritic hands but she continued her Toc H work in making paper flowers and toys for the Branch Christmas stall and embroidering kneelers for her Church. She kept her enthusiasm and her interest in Toc H to the end.

Harpenden Branch report the death in March of Roy Humphreys, one of their longest serving members, at the age of 77. Roy played a full part in the life of the Branch with a special interest in their long term involvement with the local National Children's Home. Harpenden Branch has shared for 55 years in the Home's annual open day and Roy played an active part on 54 of those occasions.

Doris Longley writes: 'Edith Lilian McGregor ("Mac" to us all) died in March just two months before her 100th birthday. Mac had been a member of Wallasey Branch for more than 30 years having first met Toc H in Canada. For many years she was our Treasurer... She was a long standing member of Wallasey Liberal Party, a delegate representing Toc H on the Standing Conference of Women in Wallasey for 25 years and for 30 years a member of the United Nations Association, travelling to their World Conference in New York when she was over 80.'

'I had the pleasure of taking her three times to Poperinge. She loved the Old House and especially the Upper Room about which we talked over and over again. She attracted everyone with

Lack of space has compelled us to hold over some obituary notices received. We hope to include these in future issues.

—Editor

her fine sense of humour and her delicious giggle. I can remember carting my party off for a day in Ypres on one occasion. She was the one who "got off" with a maudlin, drunken Frenchman, who, with tears running down his cheeks, assured me that "this lovely lady reminded him of his Mother". He disappeared whilst we were waiting for the train to go out but then staggered back into the compartment clutching a massive ice cream cone which he presented to Mac. She was over 70 then!...

'I was privileged to take the Ceremony of Light for her for the last time. When I was setting up the lamp in the Chapel before the service I was approached by one of the crematorium staff who asked me to explain the lamp and what I was going to do with it. I could hear Mac's chuckle, thinking that this was her final service for Toc H – getting Toc H talked about even at her funeral!

'Last year she won £50 on a Premium Bond and gave me the money to get something for the Old House. I am arranging for Communion cloths to be sent for the Upper Room. They will be in memory of a grand lady who loved Toc H. We in Wallasey Branch will never forget her. Our Branch and our lives are the richer for having known her. "With proud thanksgiving" we shall certainly remember her!'

'Joyce Lockwood will be sadly missed by her friends in Huddersfield Joint Branch. She became a member of LWH over 50 years ago and remained a loyal, caring Huddersfield member right to the end. Joyce loved Toc H and all that it stands for, and has served our Branch as Secretary, Pilot, Chairman, Jobby and Counsellor over the years. In her latter years she worked as Treasurer for the Church of England Children's Society and luncheon club organiser for the WRVS.

PG

A correspondent tells us that Alec Souness has died in Australia where he had gone with his wife two years ago to join a daughter. For many years, Alec had been a member in Dunfermline but at the end of 1977 he moved to Huddersfield and joined Huddersfield Joint Branch. He was much loved in his Branch – ever cheerful and willing to help. They will always remember him.

We give thanks for their lives

'A FESTIVAL OF TOC H'

Saturday, 9 June 1984

OAKHAM, Rutland, Leicestershire

All are invited to come to worship, sing and enjoy a day of **CELEBRATION** with Toc H in the historic market town of OAKHAM.

PROGRAMME

From 12 noon members of Melton Ladies Toc H Branch will be serving coffee in Ferrers School, Cold Overton Road.

At 3 pm a Festival Service will be held in the parish church of All Saints, led by the Mid-Eastern Regional Padres: Revd Brian Blade and Revd Maurice Cuttell. The preacher will be the newly appointed Toc H Chaplain, Revd Frank Topping — (see elsewhere in this issue)

After a buffet tea a talk will be given by Ann Crouch about her work with 'Friendship Circles' in the NE Region.

From 7 pm to 10 pm there will be a Folk Dance in the Ferrers School hall.

This 'Festival of Toc H' is being sponsored by the Mid-Eastern Region and the cost to you will be £1.50. Tickets are obtainable by sending your payment together with a stamped addressed envelope to Mrs Mary Carmichael, Toc H Mid-Eastern Regional Centre, 2 St Peter's Road, Leicester LE2 1DS. Closing date for applications Friday, 1 June 1984.

Small Ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

How would you like to share your interests, ideas and experiences with other Toc H members? The International Friendship League runs a voluntary penfriend service that helps link people from all parts of Britain. Just send a stamped addressed envelope (without obligation) to Mr J Lloyd, IFL Penfriend Service UK, PO Box 117, Leicester.

Rockley Sands, Poole, Dorset. Six berth caravan. Live club entertainment on site, heated pool, supermarket. Available May - October. Mrs V Whyte, 5 Doric Avenue, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. (Tel: Tunbridge Wells 53).

Llandudno, N Wales. Family run licenced hotel, opp pier, mins from shops and entertainments. Parties up to 35 catered for. Colour brochure on request. Bed, breakfast, evening dinner opt. Elms Hotel, Llandudno. Tel: 0492 78511. Under new management. Vacancies Easter and coming season.

Jaywick, Clacton, Essex. Sea wall chalet, ideal for two adults, can sleep three. Car parking available, near shops. All electric. April to October £30 pw. Apply: Miss Nicolls, 38 Kings Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

Weymouth — Inclusive coach holidays from most parts of country from about £85. Coach both ways, free excursions. Bed, breakfast and evening meal at hotel. Suntours, 21 Kirtleton Avenue, Weymouth. Tel: 0305 785296.

Conwy. Dinner and B & B £10.50 per day. Weekends, midweek bookings. Ideal for walking, touring, near sea and mountains. Doreen and Bill Baxter, Lllys Gwilym Guest House, 3 Mountain Road, Cadnant Park, Conwy, Gwynedd, N Wales. Tel: 049 263 2351.

Hunstanton, Norfolk, five berth caravan fully equipped, electricity, TV, excellent site facilities. May/June £45 pw, July/August £55 pw, September £45 pw. Sorry no dogs. Telephone: Kings Lyn 673895.

Dick Moody MPS of Clacton on Sea, Essex (Toc H member for 40 years) is looking for a fellow pharmacist. Scope for a lively private life. Write giving details of self and requirements. All letters will be acknowledged from 130 Old Road, Clacton on Sea, Essex CO15 3LU.

Fund Raising. Spring flower bulbs for resale at direct from grower prices. Good profits to be made on quality daffodils, tulips, crocus, hyacinths etc. Add a new dimension to your Autumn Fayres, Coffee Mornings etc. Price list sent on request. M K & B Chappell, Fengate Road, West Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincs. Tel: Pinchbeck Bars 381.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HE.

Fund raising through superb hand crafted cuddly characters. Colour catalogue available from: Scarborough Soft Toy Manufacturers, Freepost, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

Christian Singles. Social events, nationwide. Friendship contacts, weekend houseparties, fellowship groups. Holidays, home/abroad. Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept B23, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.